

PENDLETON, WILLIAM N.

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Civil War Officers Confederate

William N. Pendleton

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
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Historic Characters at All Saints Church—Part 4

Rev. Pendleton returns to Frederick as Confederate Army brigadier general

*G.W. Drawer
Confed. sections
near Frederick*

By JUDGE EDWARDS S. DELAPLAINE



BRADLEY T. JOHNSON
Member of All Saints Church.

Issued Proclamation
Calling for Recruits
For Confederate Army

The beautiful All Saints Church on Court Square, which was opened for worship on January 3, 1856, brought joy to Mr. Seymour and his flock. For five more years the rector served in attractive and harmonious surroundings. His predecessor, Mr. Pendleton, succeeded in locating another pulpit, having become rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington, Virginia, on October 4, 1853.

In Lexington Mr. Pendleton was as diligent as he had been in Frederick. In 1856 he was elected Deputy to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church. In 1860 he published a series of lectures under the title, "Science a Witness for the Bible."

At the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Seymour in Frederick and Mr. Pendleton in Lexington, like other clergymen, found it was becoming increasingly difficult to carry on their pastoral duties.

Mr. Seymour, born, reared, and educated in the North, was naturally opposed to slavery. His sympathies were with President Lincoln. He was distressed to read in the newspapers the

reports of the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April, 1861.

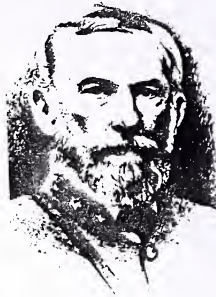
All through daylight of April 12th and through the rain and darkness of the night, the cannon pounded the fort with more than 3,000 shot and shell. Eight times the Confederates hit the flagstaff. At last they shot the flag off the peak. A sergeant climbed up the staff with a hammer and nailed it on again.

Smoke and heat stifled the garrison. The soldiers hugged the ground with wet handkerchiefs over their mouths and eyes until they could breathe again. The last biscuit was gone. They had nothing for food but pork.

Early on the morning of the 13th, terms of surrender were renewed. Major Robert Anderson, after 33 hours of bombardment, surrendered. On Sunday, the 14th, he marched his garrison out of the fort. They had lost only one man, who was killed in an accidental explosion of one of their own cannon.

In his last glimpse of Fort Sumter, Major Anderson saw the new flag of the Confederacy — the Stars and Bars — flying over the fort. The Major, carefully

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WILLIAM N. PENDLETON
Brigadier General, CSA.
Chief of Artillery.

Former Rector of
All Saints Church

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preserving the soiled Star-Spangled Banner, led his men on board a relief ship and headed for the harbor of New York.

On that Sunday, April 14, 1861, as prayers were being said for the President of the United States in many churches throughout the land, Lincoln was preparing a Proclamation declaring that seven of the States — South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas — had "combinations too powerful to be suppressed" by ordinary procedure of government.

The next day the Proclamation went out to millions of people in the land. In it Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 militia to suppress the combinations. He called on all loyal citizens to defend the Union.

A few days later, April 17, 1861, Virginia seceded. Mr. Pendleton, a native of Virginia, felt that it was his duty to give his allegiance to his native State.

When a group of young men who had organized a battery in Rockbridge County asked the West Point graduate to drill them, he agreed to do so. In the group of 78 men eight were lawyers and six were teachers of local prominence. When this company, which they called the Rockbridge Artillery, enlisted in the Confederate Army, Mr. Pendleton was asked to serve as Captain.

It had been 31 years since the rector

graduated at West Point. He was now 51. He believed he was physically fit to stand the rigors of war. Strongly in sympathy with the Southern cause, he felt that he should make his training in the artillery available to the Confederacy. He promptly resigned as rector of Grace Church and donned the uniform of Captain in the Artillery.

In Lexington the sentiment was practically unanimous in favor of the Southern cause. In Frederick there was a division of sentiment, but the predominant feeling was loyal to the Union.

Great excitement raged in Frederick on the 26th of April when the members of the Maryland Legislature convened in extraordinary session in the Court House just a stone's throw from the Episcopal church and rectory. Governor Thomas H. Hicks had called the Legislature to meet in Frederick because of tension in Annapolis. In order to obtain more room the legislators moved from the Court House to Kemp Hall.

Less than two weeks later — at 2 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, May 8 — a fire broke out in the cupola of the Court House. The flames burned through the roof to the first floor, and in less than an hour nothing remained of the Court House but the walls.

Mr. Seymour was aware that there were a number of Southern sympathizers in his congregation, but though he felt embarrassed at times, he

saw no reason to resign immediately.

It was not long before the Rockbridge Artillery, commanded by the former rector of All Saints Church, was ready for active combat. As they had four guns and the Captain was a minister of the Gospel, they facetiously named the guns after the four great Apostles — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The first combat was with Union troops at Falling Waters on the second of July. According to a correspondent's report in the Richmond newspaper, Captain Pendleton loaded his cannon and aimed and then, raising his hand in prayer, shouted: "May the Lord have mercy on their poor souls — Fire!"

The correspondent reported that the cannon ball "struck the head of a column, and when the smoke cleared away its path was still visible." In praise of the Episcopal clergyman, the correspondent remarked that his achievement as artillerist showed clearly "what stuff he is made of."

Less than three weeks later, July 21, the Union and Confederate troops met at Bull Run. The Rockbridge Artillery performed so capably that Pendleton was commissioned Colonel on the staff of General Joseph E. Johnston.

In his official report of the battle, General Johnston said:

"The efficiency of our infantry and cavalry might have been expected from a patriotic people;



**'ARCADIA'—Early photograph of Mansion on estate where
Gen. Pendleton and his Artillery bivouacked in 1862**

accustomed like ours to the management of arms and horses, but that of the artillery was little less than wonderful. They were opposed to batteries far superior in the number and range, and equipment of their guns, with educated officers and thoroughly instructed soldiers. We had but one educated artilleryman, Col. Pendleton — that model of a Christian soldier — yet they exhibited as much superiority to the enemy in skill as in courage. Their fire was superior both in repidity and precision. Every regiment and battery performed their part well."

The Richmond paper said of Pendleton: "The inquiry among the

prisoners was general 'who the Devil commanded that battery on the left, that killed so many of our men?' Our reply was that it was commanded by a Saint named Pendleton."

One of the officers in Richmond who heard the story of Pendleton's unusual prayer and order in battle was J.B. Jones, Clerk in the War Department of the Confederate States. According to the version which he heard, it was at Bull Run where Pendleton had given the unusual prayer and order. On the 7th of August he wrote the following entry in his Diary:

"Saw Col. Pendleton today, but it was not the first time. I have seen him in the pulpit, and heard him preach good sermons. He is an Episcopal minister. He it was

who plowed such destruction through the ranks of the invaders at Manassas. At first the battery did no execution; perceiving this, he sighted the guns himself and fixed the range. Then exclaiming, 'Fire, boys! and may God have mercy on their guilty souls!' he beheld the lanes made through the regiments of the enemy. Since then he has been made a Colonel; for he was a fellow-cadet at West Point with the President and Bishop Polk."

Pendleton, though a minister of the Gospel, had no qualms about killing in war, even in fratricidal war. He rationalized that the United States

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Government was waging a war of aggression, while the Confederate States were fighting a defensive war. He contended that the Confederate Government had been established to obtain justice, and, after fair and full trials in search for peace, it could not be condemned for being in violation of the teachings of the Bible, but actually it had the sanction of God to resist aggression to the full extent of its ability.

In this respect Pendleton's thought was somewhat similar to that of Stonewall Jackson, who had no hesitation in killing any Americans on the Sabbath "with the blessing of an everkind Providence," if they looked ready for punishment. General Jackson, however, was more extreme in that he would not send his wife a letter which he thought would be carried in the mail on Sunday, or open on Sunday a letter which his wife had mailed to him.

Apparently Pendleton did not wrestle with the problems of conscience as did President Lincoln. Both, however, hoped that Providence would guide them.

"In great contests," Lincoln wrote, "each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time. In the present civil war it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party; and yet the human instrumentalities, working just as they do, are the best adaptation to effect his purpose."

Pendleton believed that if he had made a mistake in giving up his work as Episcopal rector to enter the Confederate army, God would in some way indicate to him his mistake. His statement on the subject follows:

"My future course will be determined by such indications as Providence may present to my judgment. If someone becomes ready to command this company, and my services are not important in strictly military offices, I should greatly prefer duties more appropriate to my spiritual relations, and may so signify to my official superiors."

In the spring of 1862 Pendleton was transferred to the command of General Lee as Chief of Artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia with the rank of Brigadier General.

Because of sickness, General Pendleton did not fight in the second Battle of Bull Run August 29 and 30, 1862. He reported to General Lee on the field, but Lee ordered him to rest. From that time on, however, Pendleton remained with Lee until the surrender at Appomattox.

It was on the third of September that Lee virtually decided to undertake a daring invasion of Maryland. On that day he set the army in motion toward Loudoun County, where he could feed it temporarily while threatening the Shenandoah Valley. On the next day he was persuaded of the benefits to be

gained from entering Maryland and he wrote President Davis that he would proceed unless the President disapproved. Lee's hope was to seduce the wavering border State from the Union and also to win a victory that might encourage foreign intervention. The greater part of the army moved to Leesburg, and from Leesburg the army tramped to White's Ford on the Potomac. The head of the columns prepared to cross the river on the 5th and 6th.

The first troops to reach the Potomac stripped or pulled trouser legs over their knees and plunged into the water. As they clambered up the northern bank they gave cheers with the knowledge that they had carried the war into the enemy's country. The bands played "Maryland, My Maryland," and the soldiers cheered and sang more lustily.

On reaching the soil of Maryland, Lee rode with the infantry toward Frederick. He established his headquarters in a beautiful grove of oaks within three miles of Frederick. The cavalry was stationed at Urbana.

General Pendleton's artillery did not leave Leesburg until Sunday morning, September 7. He arrived at Robert H. McGill's country estate on the Buckeystown road, three miles south of Frederick, Sunday night at midnight. The former rector of All Saints Church remembered the farm well. It adjoined Carrollton Manor and was known as Arcadia. The artillery encamped at Arcadia along Ballenger Creek.

Although Pendleton's last months as clergyman in Frederick had not been pleasant, he had many pleasant memories of the town and he looked forward to renewing many old acquaintances. Early on Monday morning he rode to Lee's headquarters to report. After their conference, Pendleton said he wanted to spend the day in Frederick, and Lee gave him permission.

Monday, September 8, 1862, was an unusually exciting day in Frederick. On this day General Lee issued his historic Proclamation to the People of Maryland. In it he asserted: "The people of the Confederate States have long watched with the deepest sympathy the wrongs and outrages that have been inflicted upon the citizens of a commonwealth allied to the States of the South by the strongest social, political and commercial ties."

The Proclamation revealed that Lee knew that Chief Justice Taney, now 85 years old, was remembered by the people of Frederick County; that Chief Justice Taney had issued a writ of habeas corpus for John Merryman; and that President Lincoln had authorized suspension of the writ. The General asserted that the imprisonment of Merryman at Fort McHenry was an outrage and the protest made against it by "the venerable and illustrious Marylander" was treated by Lincoln "with scorn and contempt."

Lee also knew that Governor Hicks had called the Maryland Legislature to meet in extraordinary session in

Frederick and that some of the members of the Legislature who were thought to be in favor of Secession were arrested by Federal officials, for in his Proclamation he asserted that the Legislature had been "dissolved by the unlawful arrest of its members."

Therefore, the General explained, the mission of his army in coming into Maryland was to enable the citizens to enjoy again the rights of freemen and to restore independence and sovereignty to the State. In urging the citizens to join the Confederacy, the General said:

"No constraint upon your free will is intended; no intimidation will be allowed within the limits of this army, at least. Marylanders shall once more enjoy their ancient freedom of thought and speech. We know no

enemies among you, and will protect all, of every opinion. It is for you to decide your destiny freely and without constraint. This army will respect your choice, whatever it may be; and while the Southern people will

rejoice to welcome you to your natural position among them, they will only welcome you when you come of your own free will."

It was not long after General Pendleton arrived in Frederick at the
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end of his three-mile horseback ride from Lee's headquarters that he observed that the Proclamation to the People of Maryland was not bringing many recruits to the Confederate army.

The Chief of Artillery, whose residence in Frederick had made him familiar with the city, found no manifestations of joy now; in fact, the residents were giving the Southerners a cold reception. Very few were venturing out of their homes. Most places of business were closed.

There was no question that the City of Frederick had grown in the years since Mr. Pendleton moved from Frederick to Lexington. Its population had grown from 6,000 to 8,000 — an increase of more than 35 per cent in nine years.

With mixed feelings he looked at "the old church" on Court Street where he had conducted services under difficulties, the little church which he condemned from the pulpit and in printed pamphlets. The building was still standing and it looked the same as it did when he preached there. But it was closed.

Then he saw "the new church" — the Upjohn edifice on Court Square which was built not long after he left Frederick. This, too, was closed.

Then a glance at his former home — the Episcopal rectory on Church Street. It, too, was closed. On account of the bitterness caused by the war, Mr. Seymour finally resigned in the first of July. No one had been found to take his place. The parish was at a standstill.

Mr. Pendleton was told how the second Frederick County Court House had been destroyed by fire. He found that work was now going forward on the third Court House. It appeared to be nearly ready for occupancy.

One building that had not changed in any way was the old Academy, where Mr. Pendleton's son, Alexander, had studied when the Pendletons resided in Frederick.

After Mr. Pendleton and his family settled in Lexington, "Sandie," as Alexander was popularly known, entered Washington College. After graduating at the age of 17, he enrolled in the University of Virginia to study for an M.A. degree. But in the summer of 1861 he joined the staff of General Stonewall Jackson. Like his father, "Sandie" was unable to take part in the second Battle of Bull Run because of sickness. Now 22 years old, "Sandie" was encamped near Frederick.

Another former member of All Saints Church who arrived with the Army of Northern Virginia at this time was Bradley T. Johnson. He was now nearly 33 years old and he held the rank of Colonel. He was approached to act as Provost Marshal during the army's encampment around Frederick.

General Lee authorized Johnson to issue a Proclamation announcing that officers were in Frederick ready to receive recruits and that he had been empowered to muster in companies of one hundred men each. General Lee assumed that Johnson, because of his notoriety in Frederick County, would be influential in encouraging enlistments. Johnson, a son of Charles Worthington Johnson and grandson of Colonel Baker Johnson, had graduated at Princeton, had been admitted to the bar, had served as State's Attorney of Frederick County, had been Democratic candidate for State Comptroller, and had attended the 1860 Democratic Convention.

Pendleton knew Bradley T. Johnson intimately. When Pendleton was the rector of All Saints Church in Frederick, Johnson was active member of the congregation.

At the outbreak of the war, Johnson helped to organize the First Maryland Regiment for the Confederate Army and departed from Frederick for Virginia early in May, 1861. He commanded in a number of battles.

In his Proclamation pleading for recruits for Lee's army, Colonel Johnson said: "We have the arms here for you. Come all who wish to strike for their liberties and homes. Let each man provide himself with a stout pair of shoes, a good blanket, and a tin cup. Jackson's men have no baggage."

The Proclamations of Robert E. Lee and Bradley T. Johnson failed to influence young men to enlist in the Confederate army. Any ardor residents may have had to join was dampened by the sight of thousands of Confederate soldiers who were hatless, shoeless, and in rags.

While very few Marylanders responded to General Lee's appeal for recruits, Pendleton was pleased with the General's Proclamation. Soon afterward he mailed a copy of it to Mrs. Pendleton and told her he thought it was "very good."

September 8, 1862, was a fascinating day in the life of William Nelson Pendleton. He could not forget his unpleasant dispute with the vestry of All Saints; but he still had many friends in Frederick.

Of course, his friends found that he had greatly changed in nine years. Before the war Fredericktonians saw him in the clerical garb of the Episcopal minister. He was now wearing the gray uniform with the epaulettes of Brigadier General. With gray beard and countenance described as "half clerical and half martial," he was a man of imposing appearance. He resembled General Lee, for whom he was often mistaken.

By many of his old admirers he was greeted in Frederick with cordiality. In a letter to his wife he said, "Greater kindness no one ever received."

The day was soon over. Late in the afternoon Brigadier General Pendleton galloped back to the artillery camp along Ballenger Creek. It was a day of pleasant memories.

Next installment
Tuesday, Dec. 2



